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Change of address:
The Nature Conservancy
has moved from:
1214 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
to:
1840 Mintwood Place, N.W.
Washington 9, D.C.

Little gifts
will keep us going;
Bigger ones
will keep us growing!

Volume 1 - Number 10

November 1951

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1840 MINTWOOD PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

CONSERVATION EDUCATION takes a step forward with the inauguration of a 3-year Conservation Project by the National Association of Biology Teachers. The American Nature Association is providing a grant of $10,000 for the Project. Objective is to increase the effectiveness of conservation teaching in high school biology. It is planned to compile information on conservation teaching technics used by outstanding teachers, to prepare a summary of the status of conservation teaching in biology, and to prepare conservation teaching units. This will be done on a state and regional basis with each state having a committee. Regional conferences are planned. Chairman of the Project is Richard L. Weaver, State Dept. of Public Instruction, Raleigh, North Carolina.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE director after Dec. 8 will be Conrad L. Wirth. Hillory A. Tolson will be senior assistant director.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE has a new chief, Robert M. Salter. He is a soil scientist and has been chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering since 1942. He succeeds Dr. Hugh H. Bennett who has accepted a position as special assistant to the Secretary of Agric., in charge of conservation and resource matters.

REGIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK: Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge is to be crossed by the N.Y. State Thruway, according to plans of the N.Y. Dept. of Public Works. The refuge is at the north end of Cayuga Lake. Construction on the superhighway is nearing the refuge, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has entered into an agreement with the road building agency to allow crossing the refuge under stipulated conditions. New York conservation groups are fighting this incursion on an area dedicated to wildlife preservation. A Montezuma Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge Protective Committee has been formed with Devereux Butcher of the National Parks Assn. as chairman. See Nat'l. Parks Mag., Oct.-Dec., 1951.

This fight involves a principle that goes far beyond Montezuma. It is an example of why we must stand watch over all areas dedicated to preservation. Government agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, are handicapped in fighting these threats. It will have to be done by individual citizens and their organizations.

NORTH CAROLINA: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge furnishes another case of road construction on a refuge. Congress has passed a bill granting an easement to the state to improve an old road thru the refuge. Besides furthering the destruction of the dune and beach vegetation on the refuge, the road will provide easy access to the area of the proposed Cape Hatteras Nat'l. Seashore. It will thus facilitate private development and lessen chances of establishing the preserve.

VIRGINIA: Seashore State Park, east of Vorfolk, Va., faces a serious threat. Local residents are proposing drainage of marshes in the park

REGIONAL NOTES (cont.):
to control mosquitoes. Engineering surveys have been made to determine the best method of procedure for carrying out drainage operations. The State Conservation Dept. has not yet made a final decision on the project and invites letters from interested persons. Address: Mr. Sidney S. Kellam, Director, Dept. of Conservation and Development, Richmond 19, Va.

The mosquito involved is Mansonia perturbans. Its larval period extends from fall to spring. The larvae attach to stems of aquatic plants. Apparently it is common in areas outside the park. The plans call for controlled drainage in the month of Nov. Swamp areas would be "maintained in their natural state at least eleven months of the year", with the hope of not injuring the vegetation. The plan would be tried "experimentally" in part of the park first.

The park is important as a natural area. It is said to contain elements of northern, southern, and western flora and fauna, including cypress. It is one of the few preserved areas of its type. Drainage for even one month a year would have a great effect on the whole biotic community. The experiment may be a good thing if carried out scientifically and over a period of many years. The park, however, should not be the site of the experiment; it should be used as a control or check-area. Actually the "experiment" is to determine the practicality of control by the proposed periodic drainage. The engineers are not certain that the plan will work. They say rain and wind tides might require drainage operations to continue all winter.

If there must be mosquito control in the park, it can be accomplished by less destructive methods.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

INCORPORATION of the Nature Conservancy in the District of Columbia was completed Oct. 22. The following members, acting for the Conservancy, signed the Certificate: Herbert C. Hanson, Geo. B. Fell, Howard Zahniser, Chas. G. Woodbury, and Devereux Butcher.

The objects of the Conservancy as stated in the Certificate are (a) to preserve or aid in the preservation of all types of wild nature including natural areas, features, objects, flora and fauna and biotic communities; (b) to establish nature reserves or other protected areas to be used for scientific, educational, and esthetic purposes; (c) to promote the conservation and proper use of our natural resources; (d) to engage in or promote the study of plant and animal communities and of other phases of ecology, natural history, and conservation; and (e) to promote education in the fields of nature preservation and conservation. The Certificate states that the new corporation "shall be a continuation of the unincorporated association organized in 1946 under the name of The Ecologists Union and renamed The Nature Conservancy on the 11th day of September 1950, at Columbus, Ohio".

RESOLUTIONS adopted at the annual meeting of the Conservancy are as follows:

1) Our thanks to The Wilderness Society: "Whereas, The Wilderness Society has recently offered the Nature Conservancy the use of some office space at 1840 Mintwood Place, N.W. Washington 9, D.C., Be it resolved that the members of the Conservancy in meeting here assembled express to the Society their deep appreciation of this and other gestures of cooperation and friendship."

2) Coordination of efforts in nature conservation: "Whereas the success of conservation efforts requires the greatest degree of cooperation between agencies working in this field, and Whereas the National Parks Association and The Wilderness Society have objectives and ideals that lie close to those of our own organization, Be it resolved that the Nature Conservancy favors any steps that coordinate and promote work such as that of these three groups."

3) Introduction of exotics: "Whereas experience with the introduction of wild species throughout the world has been generally unfavorable and frequently disasterous, and whereas North America has been relatively fortunate thus far in avoiding some of the worst effects of the introduction of exotics, Be it resolved that the Nature Conservancy strongly urges that every possible step be taken to prevent the introduction of any additional species of foreign plants and animals into the wild, and that it specifically urges that the Fish and Wildlife Service discontinue any attempts to introduce foreign game species into the United States."

4) Flambeau Forest: "Whereas the removal of downed timber destroys the usefulness of an area reserved for scientific studies, and Whereas the newly acquired Flambeau River Forest represents a priceless scientific treasure in the Lake State Region, Be it resolved that the Nature Conservancy congratulate the Wisconsin Conservation Department on its acquisition of this area and that it urges the Department to continue to preserve an inner tract of 320 acres in a completely undisturbed condition."

By-LAWS REVISIONS made at the annual meeting: Art. 4. Fiscal year, change "December 1st of one year to Nov. 30th of the following" to read "Sept. 1st of one year to aug. 31st of the following". Art.16. Strike out "Treasurer" and "to solicit membership dues". Art.17. (new) "The duties of the Treasurer shall be to solicit membership dues, keep financial records, and handle the funds of the Conservancy". Art.18. (new) "The Board of Governors may, at its discretion, establish additional committies, employ personnel, and enter into contracts. The Board may also make rules and regulations governing the establishment and operation of state or regional divisions of the Conservancy."

NEW OFFICERS were elected at the annual meeting of the Conservancy Sept. 12. Constitutional changes were adopted increasing the number on the Board of Governors from 6 to 13 by adding 6 Governors and by separating the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

President: Dr. Herbert C. Hanson, Research Professor of Biology, The Catholic Univ. of America, Washington, D.C. Former president of the Ecological Society and member of the National Research Council Committee on Conservation. Has worked especially on grassland

NATURE CONSERVANCY (cont.):
ecology and in recent years has conducted research on plant communities in Alaska.
Vice Pres.: Dr. Curtis L. Newcombe, 8 Middle Road, Hidden Valley, Lafayette, Calif. Biologist on pollution control with the U.S. Public Health Service in San Francisco. Chairman of the Preservation Committee in the Ecological Society and Ecologists Union from 1939 to 1949. Secretary of the Grassland Research Foundation.
Secretary: Mr. George B. Fell, 1840 Mintwood Pl. N.W., Washington 9, D.C. Vice Pres., 1949-1951. Chm. Conservation Comm., Ill. Academy of Sci., 1949-1950.
Treasurer: Dr. Joseph J. Hickey, Associate Professor of Wildlife Management, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison. Formerly Secretary-Treasurer.

Members of the Board of Governors:
Terms ending 1952:
Dr. Victor E. Shelford, Emeritus Professor of Animal Ecology, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana. Founder and for many years chm. of the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions.
Mr. G. B. Gunlogson, agricultural engineer and pres. of Western Advertising Agency, Racine, Wisc. Long active in conservation work and at present arranging to preserve an area he owns in North Dakota.
Mr. J. M. Heiser, Jr., 1724 Kipling St., Houston 6, Texas. Accountant. Director of Sanctuaries of the Outdoor Nature Club and has led the effort to establish Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary near Houston.

Terms ending 1953:
Mr. Wm. Vogt, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 501 Madison Ave., N.Y. Author of "Road to Survival" and has made ecological studies in South America and Europe.
Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Professor of Animal Ecology, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana. For 13 years chm. of the Committee on the Study of Plant and Animal Communities.
Dr. Frank E. Egler, Aton Forest, Norfolk, Conn. Research Assoc. Amer. Museum of Natural History; consulting vegetationist. Active in promoting preservation of natural areas, especially in New England.

Terms ending 1954:
Mr. Richard H. Pough, Coordinator of Conservation & Use of Natural Resources, American Museum of Natural History, N.Y. 24, N.Y. Chm. of the Preservation Committee 1949-1951. Chm. of Island Beach National Monument Committee.
Dr. J. E. Potzger, Professor of Botany, Butler Univ., Indianapolis, Indiana. Authority on pollen analysis of bogs. Member of the Study Committee.
Dr. Paul B. Sears, Chairman of Conservation Program, Yale Univ., New Haven , Conn. Plant ecologist. Former Pres. of the Ecological Society and Chm. of the National Research Council Committee on Conservation.

NEW CHAIRMEN for the "Study Committee" and "Preservation Committee" have been appointed:
Chairman of Committee on the Study of Plant and Animal Communities: Dr. J. A. Macnab, Head of Dept. of Biology, Vanport Extension Center, Portland 3, Ore. Animal ecologist; formerly member of the Study Committee and recommended for chairmanship by Dr. Kendeigh. Vanport Extension Center is administered by the Oregon State System of Higher Education.
Chairman of Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions: Mr. Albert M. Fuller, Curator of Botany, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee 3, Wisc. Active worker in Wisconsin nature preservation. On State Natural Areas Committee. A founder and now President of Citizens Natural Resources Assn. Worked for establishment of Ridges Sanctuary and passage of bill for State Board for Scientific Areas.

The Board of Governors wishes to express the appreciation of the Conservancy for the fine work done by the retiring chairmen, S. Charles Kendeigh and Richard H. Pough. Dr. Kendeigh requested that he be allowed to resign on completion of the inventory of nature sanctuaries. Mr. Pough desired to restrict his activities to certain national problems and to regional problems in the Northeastern States. It is with hesitation and regret that we accept these resignations. However, we are pleased that both are continuing their active participation in the Conservancy as members of the Board and of their respective committees. We could not afford to lose their help.

MICHIGAN POLICIES AND STANDARDS REPORT

A REPORT ON POLICIES AND STANDARDS has been produced for the Michigan Natural Areas Council by a committee headed by Paul W. Thompson. The Michigan Natural Areas Council has thus far been among the most active state groups. It has secured the official cooperation of the Michigan Conservation Dept. and is proceeding to make surveys of tracts to be preserved. The Policies and Standards Report was produced as a guide for the Council's survey, planning, and other preservation activities. The report defines four major categories of areas under perpetual preservation for their natural features. The categories are not intended to replace existing terminology such as "park" or "monument", but are designed to facilitate the preservation work of the Council and the Conservation Dept. The following is a condensed and somewhat modified version of the committee report:

Nature Reserve: A tract of land set aside for the preservation of natural conditions and for public use in the study and enjoyment of nature and related types of recreation. These tracts may contain or consist of one or more a) Natural Area Preserves, b) Nature Study Preserves, or c) Scenic Sites. Elsewhere in the area facilities such as roads and buildings may be necessary. There should be a minimum of construction and all improvements should be as naturalistic as possible. Materials that harmonize with the natural surroundings should be used. Land modified by former uses may be included in a Nature Reserve. "Nature Reserve" is a general category that includes most wild parks.

a) Natural Area Preserve: A Natural Area Preserve is an essentially undisturbed area that is set aside for perpetual preservation in its natural condition. In regions where unmodified vegetation no longer exists, the best available sample of a vegetation type may be designated a Natural Area Preserve. Type of ownership is not important if permanent preservation is assured. "Natural Area Preserve" should be recognized as a category in the Michigan Conservation Dept. land-use classification.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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The Nature Conservancy
1840 Mintwood Place, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is $.....

☐ Individual ☐ Organization

Membership classes are as follows:
Regular $2; Sustaining $5;
Contributing $10; Supporting $25 or more;
Patrons $100 or more with future dues optional.

Name

Address

City Zone State

Optional:
Occupation:

Major interests:

Club affiliations:

Activities not to be allowed on Natural Area Preserves include: cutting of timber or vegetation, grazing, construction of roads, dams, buildings, recreational facilities, hunting (except when needed for population control), bridle trails, dead tree removal (except when blocking trails), alteration of water levels, burning, stream pollution, airplane landing, public use of fire trails. Scientific specimen removal by limited permit only. Fire trails and primitive foot trails may be allowed as necessary. Certain control measures for harmful insects and diseases may be allowed. Natural Area Preserves should be marked with suitable signs.

For each major region of the state, establish one or more tracts representing the vegetation types present. Areas should be of sufficient size so that the central portion will not be affected by conditions outside the boundaries, or surrounded by adequate buffer zones. Select areas protected by natural isolation if possible. Select, preferably, areas which include several different types of communities. Select some areas which contain rarer species. Each major region of the state should have, if possible, several tracts large enough to support the moderate-sized species of animals.

Natural Area Preserves will be open for observation, study, and research by persons with a wide variety of interests in so far as their activities do not disturb the natural conditions.

b) Nature Study Preserve: An area possessing significant natural history values preserved for use in nature study, conservation education, etc. These tracts should be kept in as natural condition as possible and at the same time provide improvements desirable for nature study and facilities necessary for public convenience such as nature trails, trailside museums, parking lots, and service drives. Public roads should be restricted to the outer fringe of the area; the central portion should be limited to travel by foot.

Nature Study Preserves will serve many of the same purposes as Natural Area Preserves but will be subject to greater use. Foot trails will be needed to guide groups to spots of interest. Objects of special interest may be posted with explanatory signs. These areas may be useful as locations for permanent quadrats and special studies. To prevent denudation of areas, collection of specimens should be restricted.

c) Scenic Site: An area preserved because of values derived from uniqueness, natural beauty, and wildness. Such Sites because of their unusual features (falls, panoramas, lakes, high overlooks, etc.) should be made available to the public by construction of roads, trails, and parking areas. However, it is important that the natural surroundings be kept. Concessions and recreational facilities should be placed at a distance from Scenic Sites. It may be desirable to have roads and parking areas in the background, several hundred yards away from the actual Scenic Site which will be reached by a foot path retaining the qualities of the wilderness.